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OKLAHOMA CO-OPS EXCHANGE SAFETY TIPS

REPRESENTATIVES of eight REA-financed cooperatives, meeting with Joe Billingsley, REA state safety engineer, as the Southwest Safety Association, in the offices of the Caddo Electric Cooperative at Binger, Okla., exchanged some extremely valuable information on safe practices and first aid work.

Billingsley led a round-table discussion on ways of setting up rules for safety organization. Fred Chapman and Lincoln Schear of the Caddo Co-op discussed accident prevention on construction, and the hazard of improper house wiring. Farmey Harmon of the Harmon Electric Cooperative outlined correct methods of tree trimming and prevention of ivy poisoning. Gerald M. Goodwin of the Kiwash Electric Cooperative discussed methods of handling applications for pole and extensions under new War Production Board orders. First aid, heat exhaustion and sun stroke were discussed by Cecil Neeley of the Northfork Electric Cooperative, and W. D. Hamilton of the state highway patrol outlined safe driving practices. Members of the Southwest Rural Electric Association staff demonstrated proper procedure to follow in the transportation of an injured

person from the field to the doctor or hospital.

Co-ops in all sections of the country, whether participating in the state safety and job training program or not, could benefit from a well-organized day of discussion and demonstration similar to this one.

Incidentally, Oklahoma's REA safety and job training program has come up with an attractive four-page mimeographed publication, "REA Safety News Flashes." In its first issue, the editor says to the Oklahoma co-ops:

"Your cooperatives and farmers are working longer hours and harder with less help and fewer facilities, and the only reward will be our heritage of freedom. Even without considering the loss to the war effort, accidents cause a great deal of suffering and unhappiness in our homes and work. We have banded ourselves together in a great safety program to learn the rules and practices of safety so as to help us eliminate our common enemy 'lost time accidents'. When we have done this we have not only helped ourselves but our great country which at this time is fighting for its very life and freedom for you and me."

You Can't Be Too Careful

METAL of any kind near electricity spells danger. A lineman tried to remove a cutout tube after a transformer had been energized. As he was about to touch the tube there was a flash; a thumb and two fingers were burned on each hand. A recheck showed the contractor had not removed the thin wire which bound the instruction sheet to the cutout tube. An end of the wire apparently touched the energized top of the cutout. Despite his oversight the accident would not have occurred but for one fact: The lineman was not wearing rubber gloves.

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Seven days' lost time and a badly torn hand was the penalty suffered by a laborer who used his hand to try and stop a coil of wire from falling off a truck. Mechanical means for unloading the wire would have saved both time and trouble.

* * *

After a lineman completed a change of a lightning arrestor, he started climbing down to reconnect the transformer. On the way he touched the hot leg of a secondary from another transformer and either the guy, neutral or secondary leg of the de-energized transformer. He fell about 20 feet, onto his left hip. Twelve days off duty. The cause? He was not wearing rubber gloves, neither he or the foreman had troubled to see if there were other live parts on the pole, and the lineman supported himself by grasping the conductor or fixtures instead of the pole.

* * *

You can't be too careful in loading and unloading poles. Trying to raise a pole, a line foreman suffered painful back injuries that laid him up for 25 days. He estimates the weight lifted was only 15 pounds because the pole was nearly balanced on the trailer — but a twist did the mischief.

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Going around a turn, the brakes failed to hold. The car flipped down a 10-foot bank. Damage to the driver: bruises, a strained shoulder and four days' lost time. To the car: \$600 in repair bills.



"Near Accidents"

"NEAR accidents are interesting—if they miss," writes Raymond H. Forkner, manager of the Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, Carthage, Tenn., in reporting two "near accidents" that "missed." Here is the report:

"Our system has thirteen 3-phase air brake switches controlling a loop of about 100 miles. One of three crews works on this loop, either sectionalizing or paralleling with two substations. We had a case where two cardboard red tags were removed by boys, which would have allowed either of the other crews to have closed in on the men working. We now use a 12-inch strap hinge, painted red and carrying the truck number. A metal ring is in this hinge and it is locked with the switch lock on clearance.

"Also . . . we had a freak case that could have been classed as a 'near accident.' An old telephone line was some ten feet under our 11 kv 3-phase. A tree broke this telephone line and one end wrapped around one phase in a tight tie.

"Didn't Need Gloves Yet!"

HE'S in the hospital now—he'll lose about 300 days' working time. Two fingers have been amputated from one hand, and he will probably lose the thumb and two fingers from the other hand. Yes, he was a lineman, a lineman with four years of experience, — but he didn't wear rubber gloves.

For an experienced lineman the job was a simple one—just a routine matter of placing a transformer on a pole. The line had a dead end with a line clamp and could have been disconnected just three spans away. A routine job—maybe that was the trouble. Maybe the job looked too simple—too safe. At any rate, the lineman didn't kill the line—and he didn't wear rubber gloves.

Why no rubber gloves, he was asked as he lay in his hospital bed. "I worked them hot before," he argued, trying to recall how the accident happened. "I was going to put up the lightning arrester and cut-out first—I didn't need rubber gloves yet."

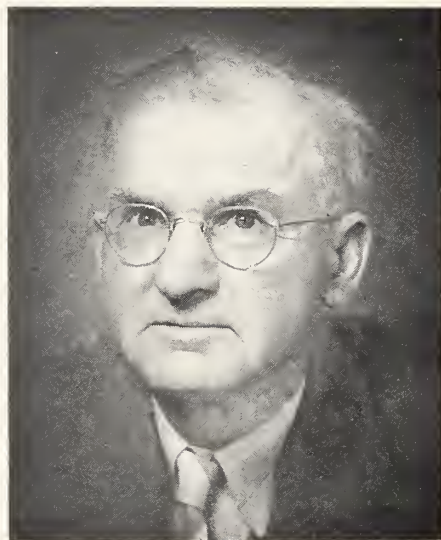
No, this lineman wasn't killed—but he may lose half his fingers, and will lose a year's time. In the years to come, he'll look at those maimed hands many times a day and think, "If only I had worn rubber gloves."

MEET REA'S SAFETY SUPERVISORS!

Illinois' Benjamin F. Snively

"AFTER you've carried two or three boys down from the tops of poles — that's when you get safety-minded."

Sturdy, blue-eyed Benjamin F. Snively, lineman and engineer with 25 years' experience, from the Arctic Circle to the calm, flat cornfields of Illinois, has had safety drilled into him hard. As Illinois REA state safety supervisor, he keeps his line tools as bright and his overalls as grimy as those of the



linemen he teaches — he believes in getting right into his job and staying with it.

In full-time charge of Illinois REA line safety work since July, 1941, Snively believes strongly in the dollar-and-cents value to a utility of a safety program. He says grimly, "it costs \$1,000 to break in a replacement for a man you've lost."

Twenty-three of Illinois' co-ops participate in REA's Safety and Job Training Program, and their line crews *must wear rubber gloves*. Snively sees to that. He still has some difficulty getting the men he trains to see the need for a protective ground. "It's always a 'dead' line that kills a man," snorts the supervisor.

Illinois co-ops have gone in heavily for

first aid training courses for linemen, co-op employees, and members. These courses have borne fruit. Not long ago a lineman was jolted off a pole by a charge of electricity. His two companions, if they had not had first aid training, would have "dumped him into a truck and taken to the doctor's, where he would probably have been dead upon arrival," they later. Instead, they rendered first aid shock and gave artificial respiration. The lineman revived rapidly. In another instance, a helpless crowd surrounded a lineman who had fallen into a tub of water in one of the co-op areas and apparently drowned. An 18-year-old boy stepped in and brought breath back into the tiny body in 15 minutes by the Schaefer prone method. The youth was trained in one of the co-op classes.

Co-ops are becoming more safety conscious throughout Illinois. One of the program's biggest boosters is Everett Read, president of the Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative at Ellettsville, of which Floyd I. Ruble is manager. Read attends safety meetings and shows intense interest in safety on his lines. It was on his system that the idea was devised of painting a white enamel warning strip 10 feet below the crossarm on switch poles. As the Jo-Carroll linemen climb, the white band shouts a silent warning: "Hot stuff higher up!"

Snively got 15 years of his line training with the Canadian Government in the wilderness country of northern Saskatchewan, where power, including some from the far-off Winnipeg River, lights only mining camps and other scattered settlements. Line work meant getting out with a dog team in those days, and Snively felt as strongly then as now about the need for a level head and a presence of mind while working with power.

"Ask yourself: Who's going to tell the other lineman's wife that he won't be home for supper any more? Then you won't take chances," says this veteran of the line.

Power + Water = Danger

BETTER not use water to put out electrically-started fires! A member of a Montana cooperative excitedly tossed a pail of water on blazing grass ignited by a fallen energized wire. He was knocked down

when the water hit the fire. Luckily he didn't suffer serious harm. Whenever possible the first step in fighting a fire arising from charged wires is to shut the power off.